

made for Democratic Senators who were not part of the original bipartisan coalition putting this bill together, that the legislative process is working, the Senate is working its will, and now we are up against what could be a stone wall of resistance that is unjustified.

I hope we can move forward. We will find out with votes very shortly.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. 1751, with all first-degree amendments relevant to the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, this is a very important piece of legislation. A significant majority of Senators on this side of the aisle want to do something about this legislation which is known as the class action legislation. But we are terribly disappointed with the procedure that has been used to get us to where we are. For example, Senator BREAU has been one of our point people on this and has worked very hard to try to get the issues resolved. Everyone knows how fair he is and how he is the dealmaker here in the Senate.

For this and many other reasons, on behalf of many Senators on this side, we reluctantly object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, I send a cloture motion to the desk to the pending motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to S. 1751, a bill to amend the procedures that apply to consideration of interstate class actions to assure fairer outcomes for class members and defendants, and for other purposes.

Bill Frist, Orrin G. Hatch, Charles Grassley, George Allen, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Rick Santorum, Susan M. Collins, Elizabeth Dole, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, Wayne Alard, Pat Roberts, John Ensign, Thad Cochran, John Warner, Jon Kyl, John E. Sununu, Saxby Chambliss.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the vote on the motion to invoke cloture will occur on Wednesday of this week.

I now ask unanimous consent that the live quorum as required under rule XXII be waived.

Mr. REID. No objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period of morning business with Senators speaking for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### LVMPD VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a group of people who are giving their time and energy to make southern Nevada a better place to live.

Like every other city in the Nation, the city of Las Vegas faces the challenge of providing essential services on a tight budget. And the most essential service of all is public safety.

This challenge is particularly difficult in the Las Vegas area, which is adding more than 6,000 new residents a month. While the national average is about 2.5 police officers for every thousand residents, we have only 1.7 officers per thousand in Clark County.

Simply put, we need more police officers in Las Vegas and Clark County. There is no easy answer to this problem—but fortunately there are hundreds of people who have become part of the solution.

The Las Vegas police department sponsors a Metro Volunteer Program that allows citizens to assist police officers in a variety of tasks, from assisting tourists to arranging for abandoned vehicles to be towed.

Some of these volunteers visit schools to present programs on safety and crime prevention, while others compile databases that are used to track crimes and solve cases.

For every hour that a volunteer performs one of these tasks, that is another hour that a sworn police officer is out on the street fighting crime.

Over the past year, 318 volunteers contributed more than 42,000 hours of service to the Las Vegas Metro Police Department. That is the equivalent of 21 full-time police officers on the street, who would not be there otherwise.

In this way, the Metro Volunteer Program is making our community safer. So I salute the volunteers on behalf of all of the citizens of Clark County. I also salute Sharon Harding, the coordinator of the Metro Volunteer Program, and Sheriff Bill Young, who is always looking for ways to better protect and serve the citizens of Clark County.

#### ELECTIONS IN AZERBAIJAN

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, on October 15, citizens of Azerbaijan went to

the polls to elect their next president. The months and days leading up to the election were characterized by extremely biased media attention for the pro-presidential Yeni Azerbaijan Party, YAP, and government-sponsored intimidation and harassment of the opposition parties. The U.S. Government and the OSCE expressed serious concern about the preelection environment to the highest levels of Azerbaijan's Government. Our advice went largely unheeded, and grave levels of government interference and intimidation continued through election day.

I traveled to Azerbaijan just before the election to meet with Azerbaijani political leaders to discuss these concerns. I told then-Prime Minister Ilham Aliyev in the clearest possible terms that the international community was carefully watching his actions and expected a democratic outcome. I also met with a range of opposition leaders and assured them that we shared their concerns and were working to encourage the government to hold elections consistent with internationally recognized standards.

On election day, the OSCE and U.S. government brought in over 600 international election observers and deployed them nationwide. Although a number of areas were peaceful and orderly, observers noted many violations of the new Unified Election Code, UEC. Violations included ballot stuffing, multiple voting, harassment at the polling station by authorities, incomplete voter lists, and a lack of regard for the procedural process of ballot tabulation.

The undemocratic and blatant disregard for the UEC in both the preelection period and on election day led to civil unrest in Baku as the final ballot counts were being made public. The night of the election and the following days showed citizens coming together in protest in large numbers in response to the election's failure to meet international standards. Reports continue to come in of severe and sometimes fatal violence against journalists and political activists. Not only has the government not met its obligation to uphold law and order, but the government's security forces are largely responsible for the violence.

This presidential election was a chance for Azerbaijan to demonstrate its commitment to the democratic process. Despite the new election code, the ruling party chose to retain power at all costs and to ensure that its candidate received nothing short of an overwhelming victory. The United States will have to review its interest in deepening strategic relations with an Azerbaijani regime that does not enjoy the full legitimacy a free and fair election confers. We should step up American assistance to the democratic opposition in Azerbaijan and continue to work to deepen civil society as a bulwark against the state. The government in Baku must know that the United States values our relations with